

Sound Doctrine

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship ... (Acts 2:42)

Put Your Worship Where Your Words Are

As a young man, the psalmist David learned a key spiritual concept that helped him receive strength from God in his trials and silence his enemies – something so simple that even a small child can practice it. Because the devil launches so many attacks against the children of God, the Lord has given us one weapon that will stand strong in the face of every assault and silence the enemy every time! Here is David's secret:

- **Psalm 8:2** Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou **ORDAINED STRENGTH** because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

Jesus referred to this same principle during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As He came into the city and the people began to realize WHO JESUS WAS, they began to enthusiastically praise Him – much to the dismay of the religious onlookers!

- **Matthew 21:16b** And Jesus said unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou has **PERFECTED PRAISE?**

Jesus did not misquote David; rather, He interpreted the Scripture and explained the truth David had discovered. **There is supernatural strength loosed on our behalf when we praise God!** Our simple act of praise is bigger than we are, because it connects us with a God who is bigger than we are! Praise accomplishes what we cannot accomplish, because it launches spiritual weapons at the enemy that demolish his strength and silence his voice. David had discovered this in the laboratory of life – as long as he was praising God, circumstances involving his enemies were turned completely around.¹ The more desperate the situation is, the more childlike the human reaction becomes. But that is good, because out of the simplicity of a childlike response also comes the most powerful weapon God has ever unleashed to fight the enemy – **PRAISE!**²

Never apologize for Pentecostal worship! With so many commandments and exhortations in the Bible to praise God, who in their right mind could call himself a Christian and not praise God with exuberance? From the Hebrew words in his psalms, here are just a few of the ways David found to praise God and silence the enemy:

- **HALAL** (Psalm 113:1) – to make a show, to boast, to be clamorously foolish, to rave
- **BARAK** (Psalm 115:18) – to kneel in adoration
- **QARA** (Psalm 116:2) – to call out, to preach, to proclaim, to cry unto
- **TOWDAH** (Psalm 116:17) – a choir of worshippers with upraised hands
- **SHABACH** (Psalm 117:1) – to address in a loud tone, to triumph, to glory
- **YADAH** (Psalm 118:1) – to worship with extended hands
- **GIYL** (Psalm 118:24) – to spin around, to be under the influence of violent emotion



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- **RUWM** (Psalm 118:28) – to exalt, to extol, to lift up, to set on high

Notice that all of these Biblical forms of worship demand a response through the **MOUTH** or through **MOTION**. There is no room here for quiet, reserved worship that supposedly happens only “in the heart” – that is not Biblical worship! Scriptural worship involves the whole man – body, soul, and spirit – in worshipping God. Some people protest, “But I’m just not the emotional type!” What they mean is, they are only emotional about things that are important to them (try handing them a million dollar cheque!). **Every love affair involves the emotions!** There is only one kind of human being that is exempt from the command to praise God – a dead one!³

The Bible teaches us that the **MOUTH** is the center of spiritual warfare, and that what is spoken can either launch the devil's weapons or God's weapons.⁴ And before you write this off as some crazy credo from the prosperity preachers, please consider that the reason there is a FALSE “name it and claim it” doctrine is because the Bible contains a TRUE “name it and claim it” principle! The difference is that one focuses on the almighty dollar and the other focuses on the Almighty Deliverer! One seeks OUR will while the other seeks HIS will.

God didn't keep Joseph from the pit, Daniel from the lions' den, the Hebrew boys from the fiery furnace, or Paul and Silas from the prison – but because they started PRAISING instead of POUTING, God walked with them through each situation! When we praise instead of panic, and worship instead of worry, God Himself fights for us and silences the enemy! When David writes in Psalm 103 that we should “bless the Lord,” he is not just saying that we bless the Lord because of past benefits. He is also telling us that **AS WE BLESS THE LORD**, we actually walk in the benefits of praise!⁵

David again uncovers the secret to silencing the enemy in Psalm 34 – if you want to make the enemy look SMALL, then make God look BIG with your praise. **Praise doesn't change God's POWER, it changes your PERSPECTIVE!** That's why David exhorts us to magnify the Lord! (“to cause to grow, to make great or powerful, to promote or make important, to praise”⁶) The secret to victory is CONTINUAL PRAISE – this was the sole activity of the disciples in the very last verse of Luke's gospel (24:53). **PRAISE WAS THE PRELUDE TO PENTECOST!** The only remaining question is, how clearly will your worship this week express your appetite for an audience with the Almighty?

¹ 1 Samuel 16:23, 1 Samuel 17:45, 1 Samuel 30:6

² Matthew 11:25, Psalm 149:6

³ Psalm 115:17, Psalm 150:6

⁴ Revelation 16:13, James 3:6, Proverbs 18:21, Joel 3:10

⁵ In Psalm 103:1-5, each of the “benefits” David mentions are stated as a continuous action (forgiveth, healeth, redeemeth, crowneth, satisfieth)

⁶ Hebrew word gadal (#1431), *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*, Logos Research Systems, Inc.